

Charney Chatter

NUMBER 30

NOVEMBER 2008

PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL

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Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the second Wednesdays of odd-numbered months.

The next meeting is on 12th November, 2008

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Personalised Home-made Cards

If you can't find the right card for that special occasion, Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds to charity

Village Diner

The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources in Buckland Village Hall, at 12.15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month. For £4 you get a two-course meal, tea or coffee. Next date: 19th November.

Village Hall Bookings

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for hire of the Hall, crockery, cutlery and the gazebos.

WANTED - Project Manager

A Project Manager for the £130,000 Village Hall Project is urgently needed. The design is complete and ready for tendering, so all the hard work has been done and it's a piece of cake from now on!

Public Meeting

Ed Vaizey MP invites you to a public meeting with Chris Smith, the new Chairman of the Environment Agency on 5th December at 7 p.m. in Drayton Village Hall. A chance to discuss the reservoir, floods, and farming issues.

CHRISTMAS BRING AND BUY



St. Peter's Church, Charney Bassett
invites you to a
Christmas
'Bring & Buy'
Coffee Morning
Saturday 29th November
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Village Hall
Scrumptious cakes * Tasty refreshments
Delicious produce * Cool crafts
Groovy raffles * 'Bring & Buy' bric-a-brac stalls

SOBELL HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

The sale of Christmas cards in aid of Sobell House held during Coffee Hour on Tuesday October 21st was very successful and raised in excess of £150. Many thanks to all who came and helped to raise such a magnificent sum for such a worthy cause.

Deadline for copy for the next edition in January 2009: 20 December 2008

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor

EDITORIAL

It's with a mixture of emotions - irritation, anger, desperation, fury etc. that I have to return to the old chestnut of dog fouling. There has been a significant increase in the amount of dog excrement found on Charney Field, footpaths and Chapel Lane. I don't know how many times it's been said in previous issues of Charney Chatter but failure to pick up dog poo is an unacceptable, anti-social act which could have serious health implications, especially for children - and it's breaking the law! Because I am one, I know that my emotions are shared by all the members of the RDOC - the Responsible Dog Owners Club. And who are these members? They're the ones who can be seen wending their way home carrying little plastic bags, neatly tied in a knot, containing the offending material, for disposal at home. If you exercise your dog anywhere around the village without carrying the means of picking up the poo, you cannot be a member of the Club.

There has been a lot of publicity in the local press recently about this problem on the playing field at Grove, resulting in a threat to ban dog owners from the field in an attempt to eliminate the problem. While it would be a tragedy if this were to happen in

Charney - and there is no thought of this at present - it may come to that if the offenders persist. Fortunately, some of the members of the RDOC are sufficiently conscientious and aware of the problem that they will even pick up other dogs' poo but it's an absolute disgrace that they have to do this. The RDOC is constantly on the lookout for offenders and excrement and I'm pleased to say that on at least two occasions the owners of dogs caught in the act have been politely requested not to let it happen again. In one case the offending owner had to borrow a bag to comply with what should be common sense and courtesy.

So if you want to belong to the RDOC, never leave home with your dog without taking a poo bag with you. They're easy to use in a perfectly sanitary manner and if you don't know how to do it, ask a member of the RDOC!

Enclosed in this issue is a questionnaire devised by NAG2 seeking your views on what needs to be done to improve your safety and tackle the things which detract from your enjoyment of living in the village. I hope you will complete the form and return it so that NAG2 knows what its priorities should be.

HEADLINES

- *The dog poo is back!*
- *What are your safety concerns?*
- *Yoga students needed.*
- *Two big fund raising successes.*

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Coffee Hour in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) has resumed until 16th December. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too! Everyone welcome.

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

PROJECT CHAFFINCH

The Charney Army has completed the first phase of work to achieve the aims of Project Chaffinch - the clearing of reeds from the stretch of millstream between Ock Green and the Mill. Some of the latter part of this work was undertaken at the request of Steve and Sue Champion at Mill Cottage who blatantly bribed the Army with coffee and biscuits, which after struggling nearly knee-deep in water were very much appreciated.

The work has been inspected by Alison Futter the Conservation Officer of the Environment Agency, who has expressed satisfaction at the way the work has been carried out in an ecologically-sensitive manner. Although the leat by the bridge looks a bit of a mess at the moment, it will look much better when the Spring comes. There is evidence that water is flowing down the millstream, albeit very slowly! What we need to clear some of the silt away is another good flood - but we don't want to go there!

To complete the clearance of the millstream

along its length now requires the four landowners through whose garden the stream flows to clear reeds from their stretches. The stretch beyond the Mill is relatively clear although the landowner farmer has been contacted and has promised to do the clearance work necessary.

It is clear that the EA has abandoned its original remit to maintain main rivers and self-help groups are springing up all across the country. We are in touch with the Hanney Flood Group who have extended an invitation to villagers to attend a 7.30 p.m. meeting in the Old Hanney Room of the War Memorial Hall on November 12th at which progress and future plans will be reported and the EA will answer questions. This date co-incides with a parish council meeting but it is to be hoped that the village will be represented. We have also had a visit from a self-help group at Crudwell in Wiltshire who are facing the same problems that we are and we intend to keep in touch with them.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - NAG2

Neighbourhood policing is a way of providing a local service to your community to tackle crime and any other issues that stop you from feeling safe or which detract from your quality of life. Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) are working groups which will identify the issues which require action in the community and determine how they can be addressed and by which body. Police officers will work with other agencies such as your parish, district or county council, as well as members of your community, to decide on ways of tackling the issues in order of priority, whether or not they involve crime. Charney Bassett is one of the villages covered by the Faringdon East NAG (NAG2)

In an earlier limited survey, NAG2 identified

two key issues concerning communities in its area: 1) speeding, and 2) anti-social behaviour. It has achieved some success in dealing with the speeding issue by persuading Thames Valley Police to equip its Faringdon neighbourhood team with enforceable speeding detectors. As a result of speed traps set up over the last four months, there are now 32 motorists in the NAG2 area £60 worse off and with three points on their licences.

In order to keep abreast of community concerns another wider survey is being undertaken by NAG2. Included in this edition of Charney Chatter is a questionnaire which you are invited to complete anonymously. The results will be analysed by Thames Valley Police.

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

I have had a busy start to the new parliamentary term. Despite the credit crunch - more of which later - there have been a number of debates on issues that fall within my portfolio. The very first session in Parliament was culture questions and I raised the issue of world heritage sites. We have 27 in this country and amazingly seven are threatened with blacklisting by the international cultural organisation, UNESCO, including Westminster itself. Westminster and the Tower of London are at risk from a series of tall buildings that are planned for London, which would wreck London's historic skyline. I am pushing the Government to turn down these applications and have a proper policy in place to protect world heritage sites.

We also debated digital switchover recently. This is a huge scheme to convert all our television signals to digital, so that by 2012 you will have to have a digital television or a freeview box to watch telly. The scheme won't be coming to our part of the world for a while, but it is important to get it right, as it is already underway.

Finally we had a debate on the BBC licence fee. Every so often, an MP suggests it should be abolished and this provides an opportunity to debate the whole BBC and have fun at its

expense. As far as I am concerned, we need the BBC now more than ever, and provided the licence fee is kept at affordable levels and the BBC does not overextend its remit, there is no reason why the BBC cannot continue in its present form.

Affordable is a word that is important these days. We are in the middle of the credit crunch, and a looming recession. I have already had constituents contact me concerning their savings in Icelandic banks, and am doing all I can to help. Our part of the world has a concentration of small hi-tech businesses and I hope that their specialist nature means that they will be able to see through the recession as well as possible. I am always available to speak with, or meet, constituents facing difficulties.

You can contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, on 0207 219 6350 or at vaizeye@parliament.uk, my website can be found at www.vaizey.com

Next local surgery is at Faringdon Corn Exchange on 7th November at 5.30 p.m.

See page 6 for an invitation from Ed to a meeting to debate a number of issues which could affect the village.

CLET

Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants both to individuals under the age of 25 and to the community in Charney and Lyford.

Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. Details from the Clerk: Frances Rothwell, "Oldwalls", Buckland Road, Tel: 868704 E-mail: fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk.

100 CLUB DRAW

The September draw was made at the Charney Army meeting on October 9th. First prize of £25 went to Richard and Jo Hepper (No. 108) and second of £10 to Frances Rothwell (10).

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

CHARNEY ARMY

The Charney Army has continued its activities and has completed its first Project Chaffinch task which was to clear the millstream of reeds between the road bridge and the Mill. There's a lot more work to be done to reduce the flood risk but much of the remaining work is up to landowners to carry out - and it might need mechanical help which the Army hasn't got.

Some work has been done to remove the dreaded white poplar suckers which are re-appearing on Charney Field again after attempts to remove them have obviously not been 100% successful, The good news is they're only suckers, the bad news is that this

means the roots are still down there and the suckers are almost as difficult to remove as the original poplars.

An extra Thursday meeting in October was used to move material to the bonfire site, keeping the actual fire location free in case of hibernating hedgehogs taking up residence. Thanks to Paul McDonnell of Minmere Farm and The Machining Centre of Milton for donating pallets and scrap timber.

The Army meets at 10.00 a.m. on the second and last Thursdays of the month. To receive automatic notification of activities send your e-mail address to the Editor.

VILLAGE COLLEGE

Sadly, it looks as if the Yoga classes which were due to recommence in the New Year, will not go ahead due to a lack of students.

Down to four, the class is no longer viable. However, the remaining four are determined to drum up the extra students to restore the class to viability. We need to know by the end of November whether the class can continue in order to let Sue the tutor know. If you'd like to join the fab four, or would like more information, please contact Jos Bath on 868260 or Lyn Brookes on 868471.

Meanwhile, Pilates, Digital Camera and Flower Arranging classes are thriving although there has been no response to the proposal to hold another one-day course in Willow Weaving.

An application to CLET for continued funding of the Village Hall hire charges was successful and this will make a significant contribution to minimising student costs; the College is very grateful for this support.

Jos Bath

SPORTS SECTION

Table Tennis

Table tennis sessions have recommenced at 7.30 p.m. on Mondays in the Village Hall.

Next session Monday 10th November. All welcome.

Contact David Sibbert on 01235 868734 for further information

Aunt Sally

Another season has come to an end with The Chequers finishing mid-table in League E of the Abingdon and District Aunt Sally League.

During the season, an increase in playing members resulted in the use of a "rotational system" with the two lowest scorers dropping out each week to give everyone a game.

Congratulations to David Sibbert who finished the highest scorer with 118 dolls. Thanks go to Husnu and Roberta for looking after the team so well throughout the season and of course for their excellent refreshments.

Signing on for next season will be in February 2009... new players always welcome.

Joe Ody

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Although this is slightly old news, having just missed the September deadline with it, I'd like to tell you of my new appointment to the OCC Cabinet. I replaced Cllr John Howell, who was elected to the Henley seat for Parliament, Boris Johnson having become Mayor of London. My appointment is as Cabinet Member for "Place". (Please note it is without an "i" and I have heard most if not all, of the fishy jokes).

The post has four strands to it:

- Localities-focused work – with a focus on regenerating areas of deprivation. Identifying key areas for action by the County Council and also to ensure that services are delivered fairly across the County.
- Working more effectively with the Voluntary Sectors. This means building and maintaining an effective partnership with this sector. Apparently for every £1 we give to the voluntary sector we get £2 back in value for money.
- Community Cohesion – to identify key issues likely to threaten community cohesion, identify localities most prone to threat and build partnership to support communities.

- Equalities and Diversity. I have to ensure the County Council has a strong relationship with the different groups and act as a conduit for hard-to-reach groups.

I have only been in post for less than four months, but already I have learnt such a great deal. I have been travelling around to the difference market towns and some villages and it is clear that the needs in different places are very individual and different from each other. As the County Council has all-out elections next year, I only hold the post until then. But I am having a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoying myself.

Meanwhile, two specific items of news which could benefit Charney residents are that OCC has taken over the running of all the Oxford Park & Ride Facilities which are now all free of parking charges and major improvements to the centre of Oxford are planned. The designs for improving the City include making large parts of the centre pedestrian zones with buses excluded. The design for these zones is spectacular and should improve the "Oxford Experience".

Melinda Tilley, Kingston Bagpuize Division.

Tel: 01865 820385. Mob: 07816 834234

E-mail: melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan Nurses charity hold an annual "world's biggest coffee morning" fund raising event. The date for 2008 was Friday 26th September and a group of us decided to support this very worthwhile cause with coffee, homemade cakes, handmade cards and a bring-and-buy table in the village hall. We were lucky with the weather and the event was very well attended. We were able to send Macmillan a total of £650 plus gift aid pledges, which will raise the total by another £92. Many thanks to all the villagers who

helped organise and run the event and thanks to everyone for their generosity. A special thank you to Veronica Sharley from Wantage who was one of the key organisers and helped bring money in from a wider area. We all hope we will never have to ask for support from Macmillan but it is good to know they are there and hopefully our support will help to keep them in business for those who need them.

Julie Rumble